



Department of the Interior Recovery Investments *Investing in America's Economic Recovery*

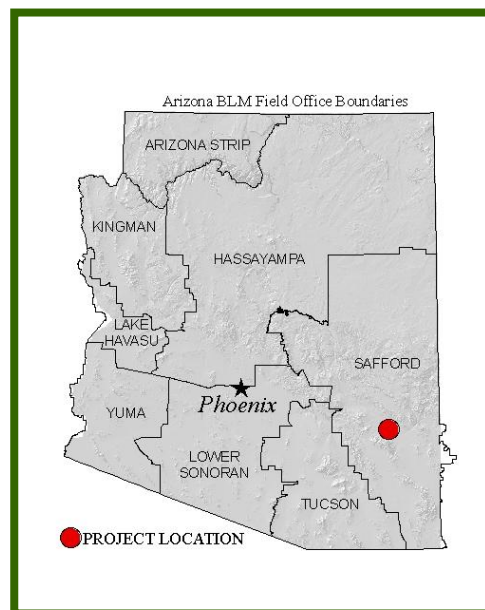


Sky Islands and Desert Seas Restoration, Phase II: Gila Box RNCA Invasive Species Treatment

Need

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will remove salt cedar from the Gila River and Bonita Creek within the Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area (RNCA) as part of its Sky Islands and Desert Seas Restoration Project. Salt cedar control will be accomplished by floating equipment and personnel down the river to designated patches of salt cedar. Techniques used would be covered under the Vegetation Treatment Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement EIS. Work on this project is expected to take place between April 30, 2010, and January 1, 2011.

Salt cedar is a highly invasive, nonnative plant that replaces native vegetation along waterways in the Southwest. Without control, salt cedar can become a monoculture. The current stands of salt cedar in the Gila Box RNCA are small and treatable. If left untreated, the salt cedar could expand beyond the point of effective treatment in the next few years. Control of salt cedar is a management action identified in the Gila Box RNCA Management Plan.



Recovery Act Funding

The contract for this BLM-Arizona American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) project was awarded to Snow Development for \$45,600.00.

Benefits

Salt cedar control will maintain vegetation diversity and wildlife habitat within the Gila Box. Habitat for listed and special-status species will be maintained and protected. Salt cedar control will contribute to riparian proper functioning condition.



More Information

For more information about this BLM ARRA project, contact Lance Brady, Assistant Field Manager for Renewable Resources, 928-348-4426 or Lance_R_Brady@blm.gov; or the BLM-Arizona ARRA Coordinator, at 602-417-9576.